

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Official Action of June 29, 2007, minor amendment has been made to the claims, primarily for grammatical reasons and to eliminate usage of means plus function terminology except for newly submitted claim 30.

All of the newly submitted claims are supported by the original application as filed, including newly submitted claims 20-29 reciting features directed to an electronic device corresponding to dependent claims 2-11 directed to a claimed cover. Newly submitted claim 30 is directed to a cover corresponding to claim 1, but written using means plus function terminology.

Claim Objections

Claims 6-13 are objected to as being in improper form "because a multiple dependent claim 6". It is apparent from the Official Action that the Office did not consider the preliminary amendment filed with the entry into national phase on December 3, 2004. This preliminary amendment made minor correction to the specification of the international application amended claims 1-13 and added claims 14-19. The amendment to claims 6-9 eliminated any multiple dependent claims. Reconsideration of this objection is therefore earnestly solicited.

In this regard, applicant's attorney would like to thank Examiner Said for his comments made during a telephone conversation with applicant's attorney's legal assistant on July 18, 2007, at which time Examiner Said stated that his records indicated that the Office did not receive the preliminary amendment filed with entry into national stage. Examiner Said indicated that a copy of the preliminary amendment should be submitted with this response to the present Official Action, along with proof of filing. Such a copy, as well as the proof of filing; namely, the transmittal letter to the United States Elected Office with an Express Mail Date of December 3, 2004 and the return postcard which was submitted therewith and which was returned to the offices of Ware, Fressola, Van Der Sluys & Adolphson are enclosed herewith as Attachments A, B and C respectively.

Furthermore, applicant's attorney would like to thank Examiner Said for indicating during this conversation that as a result of the preliminary amendment not being considered with the Official Action, the next Official Action, if any, would not be a final Official Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

At section 3, claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by US patent 6,492,978, Selig, et al (hereinafter Selig). It is asserted with respect to claim 1 that Selig shows each of the elements recited in this claim. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

More particularly, independent claim 1 is directed to enhancing a cover for an electronic device with touch-sensitive input capabilities. The invention as claimed comprises the following features:

- A) A cover for an electronic device.
- B) A decoration on the cover which is visible to a user when the cover is connected to an electronic device.
- C) A contact sensitive component as part of the cover arranged such that it generates an electrical signal when a part of the cover is touched.
 - C1) More specifically, when a part of the decoration associated to the contact sensitive component is touched.
- D) A connection component as part of the cover for electrically connecting the contact sensitive component to a processing component.

The invention as claimed in claim 1 aims at enhancing the function of a cover for an electronic device as noted at page 2, lines 18-19 of the international application specification. This enhancement is achieved with the cover as set forth in claim 1 as such a cover provides for the ability of having an interactive decoration (see specification page 3, lines 14-24).

Selig is directed to providing tactile feedback in a touchscreen for matching the benefits of a mechanical keyboard (see Selig column 2, lines 22-24). Selig also describes a so-called keyscreen (element 12, Figure 3), comprising a touchscreen

(element 16, Figure 3) over which is disposed a keypad (element 14, Figure 3) with keys (elements 24, Figure 3). The keyscreen in turn is disposed atop a display monitor (element 18, Figure 3), the individual keys are hollow and articulated and feature a support wall to provide snap action tactile feedback (Selig, column 9, lines 19-31). The keys may function either mechanically only or electrically when using a capacitive touchscreen (Selig, column 7, lines 16-64). The touchscreen includes a corresponding driver or controller which operatively joins the touchscreen to a computer (Selig, column 3, lines 42-45).

The keyscreen may be used for data entry to a terminal (element 10, Figure 3; column 3, lines 13-19) which also incorporates separate mechanical elements like a frame (element 26, Figure 3), bezel (element 28, Figure 3) and retainer (element 30, Figure 3, column 6, lines 11-26).

Argument

The Office as noted above asserts that claim 1 is anticipated by Selig. The following is a list of possible identifications of features of claim 1 with items disclosed in Selig:

A) The claimed cover may be identified with the frame in Selig as is done by the Office. The other features that could constitute a cover in Selig could be the bezel and retainer. Any of these items may reasonably be understood to be synonymous with a cover, but they have no function separate from the frame in Selig. Consequently, the arguments presented below consider the claimed cover with the frame in Selig.

B) The claimed decoration on the cover may be identified with the frame, as the Office explicitly sets forth in the Official Action. The decoration cannot be identified with the keypad or touchscreen because neither the keypad nor the touchscreen is part of the frame and thus of the cover. This fact can be seen from the figures and description contained in Selig. The keyscreen in Figure 3, composed of the keypad and the touchscreen, is indicated by a bracket that clearly does not extend to include the frame. Moreover, the description of Figure 3 in Selig states that the keypad may be attached to the touchscreen which in turn is mounted in the frame (Selig, column 6, lines 11-20). It

therefore logically follows that neither the keypad nor the touchscreen can be a part of the frame (having the decoration). Both have to be distinct and disjoint from the frame.

C) The claimed contact sensitive component is given in Selig by the touchscreen or the keypad for the case that a capacitive touchscreen is used. The Office identifies the contact sensitive component with the keypad in the Official Action, but as stated above with respect to paragraph B, neither the touchscreen nor the keypad are part of the cover as required by this element of claim 1; namely, “a contact sensitive component arranged such that it generates an electrical signal when a part of said decoration associated to said contact sensitive component is touched”.

C1) The Office identifies part of the decoration associated with the contact sensitive component with the touchscreen. Such an association is not possible because the touchscreen is not a part of the cover as required for the decoration in claim 1. Furthermore, the keypad is also not a part of the cover.

D) When the touchscreen is identified with the contact sensitive component, an electrical connection might be given. This would also apply to the keypad for the case of the capacitive touchscreen. However, it is observed that neither the touchscreen nor the keypad are part of the cover and thus any connection component associated to them cannot possibly be a part of the cover in Selig as required by this feature of claim 1.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Selig based upon the following detailed arguments:

a) In contrast to Selig, claim 1 deals with enhancing the functionality of the cover only with no reference to a screen (or touchscreen) or keypad.

b) The parallel between Selig and claim 1 as asserted by the Office is believed to be erroneous. The Office identifies the decoration of claim 1 with the frame of Selig and the contact sensitive component of claim 1 with the keypad, but then contends that the keyscreen is a part of the decoration. Such a contention is not possible because the keyscreen is not a part of the frame and thus, not a part of the cover. Thus, the assertion by the Office of the congruence between Selig and claim 1 is incorrect. In

fact, as shown above, there is also no alternative way to consistently identify parts of Selig with the elements of claim 1.

c) To a person skill in the art, the cover of an electronic device would be considered distinct from both the display or screen and a mechanical keypad with hollow keys as disclosed in Selig. Thus, claim 1 is novel with regard to Selig in that it modifies a part of the device not dealt with in Selig. This modification consists of providing a cover with a "contact sensitive component" and "electrically connecting" the contact sensitive component to a "processing component". The description of the present invention states that the cover in question may be the cover of a mobile phone, for example (see specification, page 16, lines 11-14). The common parts of a mobile phone are known to a person of ordinary skill in the art to comprise a potentially detachable cover and in addition a display and keys.

d) The subject matter of claim 1 is not only new, but also not obvious in view of Selig. Both the problem to be solved and the technical starting point for Selig and claim 1 are distinct. Selig starts with a touchscreen which is to be endowed with tactile feedback, whereas claim 1 provides a cover with input and output functionality that was previously not available in the cover itself. Since both the affected parts as well as the technical goals are different, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to modify the cover of the terminal of Selig such that it corresponds to a cover having the features as recited in claim 1.

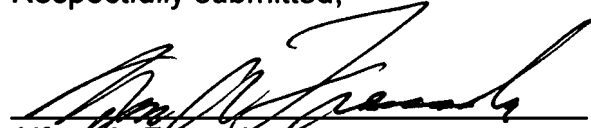
For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is neither anticipated nor suggested by Selig.

Furthermore, independent electronic device claim 12 and independent cover claim 30 have features similar to claim 1 and are also believed to be not anticipated or suggested by Selig for the same reasons as presented above with respect to claim 1.

Since claim 1 is believed to be neither anticipated nor suggested by Selig, it is respectfully submitted that rejected claims 2-5, as well as claims 6-13 not considered on the merits (see Section 1 of the Office Action) are also not anticipated or suggested by Selig due to their ultimate dependency from claim 1.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred A. Fressola', is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: September 27, 2007

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 915-007.125

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application Of:

K. SUURPAA et al. : Intl. Application No.: **PCT/IB02/002504**

Application Serial No.: **To Be Assigned** : International Filing Date: **June 27, 2002**

Filing Date: **Herewith** : Priority Date: **June 27, 2002**

Title: ***Cover for an Electronic Device and Electronic Device With a Cover***

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop PCT
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service today, December 3, 2004, in an envelope marked as, and with sufficient postage as, "Express Mail -Post Office to Addressee," Mailing Label No. EV 452365679 US, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Lissette Ramos

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, prior to line 6, please insert the following headings and paragraph:

--Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is for entry into the U.S. national phase under §371 for International Application No. PCT/IB02/002504 having an international filing date of June 27, 2002, and from which priority is claimed under all applicable sections of Title 35 of the United States Code including, but not limited to, Sections 120, 363 and 365(c).--

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 25 as follows:

-- This object is reached according to the invention with a cover for an electronic device comprising a decoration which is visible to a user when said cover is connected to an electronic device. It is understood that the reference to a connection to an electronic device is only used for defining the side of the cover on which a decoration has at least to be present. It does not restrict the scope of protection to a cover that is actually connected to an electronic device. It is proposed that the cover further comprises contact sensitive means arranged such that they generate an electrical signal when a part of the decoration associated to the contact sensitive means is touched. It is understood that touching the decoration means touching the outer surface of the cover via which a decoration is presented to a user. It is also understood that the expression touching the decoration may include the requirement of applying a certain pressure. Moreover, it is ~~propose~~ proposed that the cover comprises connection means for electrically connecting the contact sensitive means to processing means.--

On page 6, prior to line 33, please insert the following heading:

--Detailed Description--

On page 7, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 11 as follows:

-- The CIM sheet 21 additionally comprises ~~in addition~~ conductive printed wires. The arrangement of these wires is shown on the right hand side of figure 1. As can be seen in the figure, a separate capacitive sensor 22 is associated to each button 12 represented by the decoration 11 on the left hand side. Each capacitive sensor 22 is arranged in the CIM sheet 21 immediately behind the representation of the associated button 12 on the surface of the CIM sheet.--

On page 7, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 20 as follows:

-- For forming a separate capacitive sensor 22 for each of the six represented buttons 12, seven printed wires 23 are provided in the CIM sheet 21. These printed wires 23 are connected at the rim of the CIM sheet 21 to connection pins 24. In the CIM sheet 21, a respective plurality of open-ended parallel wires ~~branches~~ branch off at six different positions from a first one of the printed wires. Each set of the branched-off parallel wires extends behind a different one of the represented buttons 12. Moreover, each of the remaining six printing wires 23 splits up once into a plurality of open-ended parallel wires. The open-ended parallel wires of the remaining six printing wires 23 also extend behind a respective one of the six represented buttons 12, but from an opposite side than the parallel wires branched-off from the first printing wire which extend behind the respective represented button 12. The open-ended parallel wires of the respective two printed wires 23 further alternate behind each represented button 12. Thereby, the printed wires 23 form a separate capacitive sensors 22 for each button 12.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete the word "Claims" and insert the phrase --What is claimed is:-- therefor.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ A cover for an electronic device comprising
 - a decoration (11) which is visible to a user when said cover is connected to an electronic device;
 - contact sensitive means (22,23) arranged such that they generate an electrical signal when a part (12) of said decoration (11) associated to said contact sensitive means (22,23) is touched; and
 - connection means (24,25) for electrically connecting said contact sensitive means (22,23) to processing means.
2. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 1, wherein said contact sensitive means comprise a pressure sensitive film.
3. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 2, wherein said pressure sensitive film is an electromechanical film.
4. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 2, wherein said pressure sensitive film comprises at least one force sensitive resistor.
5. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 1, wherein said contact sensitive means comprise at least one capacitive sensor (22).

6. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 5, wherein different parts (12) of said decoration (11) associated to said contact sensitive means (22,23) result in a generation of different signals by said contact sensitive means (22,23) when touched.
7. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 5, wherein one or more selected parts (12) of said decoration (11) are associated to one or more functions enabled by a processor to which said contact sensitive means (22,23) can be connected via said connection means (24,25).
8. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 5, further comprising processing means to which said contact sensitive means (22,23) are connected via said connection means (24,25).
9. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 5, wherein said decoration is a decoration adjustable by processing means.
10. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim 9, wherein said adjustable decoration comprises at least one light emitting diode (LED) which is controllable by processing means.
11. *(currently amended)* ~~Cover~~ The cover according to claim [[9 or]] 10, wherein said adjustable decoration comprises at least one electro-luminance pattern which is controllable by processing means.
12. *(currently amended)* ~~Electronic~~ An electronic device comprising a cover according to [[one of]] claim 1 [[to 11]].

13. *(currently amended)* ~~Electronic~~ The electronic device according to claim 12 comprising a data connection to said cover and processing means for processing data received by said contact sensitive means of said cover.
14. *(new)* The cover according to claim 1, wherein different parts (12) of said decoration (11) associated to said contact sensitive means (22,23) result in a generation of different signals by said contact sensitive means (22,23) when touched.
15. *(new)* The cover according to claim 1, wherein one or more selected parts (12) of said decoration (11) are associated to one or more functions enabled by a processor to which said contact sensitive means (22,23) can be connected via said connection means (24,25).
16. *(new)* The cover according to claim 1, further comprising processing means to which said contact sensitive means (22,23) are connected via said connection means (24,25).
17. *(new)* The cover according to claim 1, wherein said decoration is a decoration adjustable by processing means.
18. *(new)* The cover according to claim 17, wherein said adjustable decoration comprises at least one light emitting diode (LED) which is controllable by processing means.
19. *(new)* The cover according to claim 9, wherein said adjustable decoration comprises at least one electro-luminance pattern which is controllable by processing means.

Following the claims, please add the abstract as follows:

--Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to a cover comprising a decoration 11 which is visible to a user when the cover is connected to an electronic device. In order to enhance the functions provided by such a cover, it is proposed that the cover further comprises contact sensitive means 22, 23 arranged such that they generate an electrical signal when a part 12 of the decoration 11 associated to the contact sensitive means 22, 23 is touched, and connection means 24, 25 for electrically connecting the contact sensitive means 22, 23 to processing means. The invention relates equally to an electronic device with such a cover.

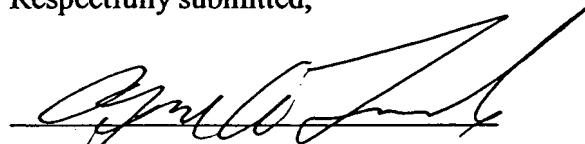
For publication: Figure 1—

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the present application to indicate national phase entry, to remove multiple dependencies, and to conform the application to proper U.S. practice. It is believed that the application is now in condition for examination, and early passage to allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 3, 2004

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